his army, and encamped about a coſs from the place, which he endeavoured to cut off from receiving ſupplies; but the kelladar, a gallant young man, made repeated ſallies on his camp, in which he was generally very ſucceſsful; ſo that during five months the ranah was able to effect nothing: he did indeed one night ſurpriſe the town, but was obliged to retreat a few hours after he had entered it. Prior to this ſiege he had concluded a treaty with Nujeeph Khan, who agreed, for an annual ſubſidy of five lacks of rupees, to put him in poſſeſſion of Gualior, but only ſent five hundred horſe to his aſſiſtance; and they, after two months, not receiving the ſtated pay, quitted his camp and returned to Agra.

During this period the ranah's brother, Mirjood Sing, entered into conſpiracy againſt him; but the ranah, having timely intelligence, returned ſuddenly to Gohud, and, by confining the heads of the conſpiracy, and impriſoning his brother, put an end to the plot. At the end of five months the ranah patched up a treaty with the Mahrattas, and quitted his deſign againſt Gualior; and this was the laſt effort he was able to make againſt his enemies.

In the latter end of 1778, an army of Mahrattas, conſiſting of about twelve thouſand horſe, and two thouſand nuggars, or fakiers, under the chiefs Hindoo, and Row Appa, foujedars of Belſah, Ambajee, and Kumbut Row, marched againſt him; the ranah, whoſe troops, from being long in arrears, were grown mutinous and diſaffected, ſenſible of his inability to cope with the enemy, viewed with terror his approaching ruin; but his good fortune once more aſſiſted him, in pointing out a path, by following which his affairs were retrieved, and acquired a ſplendour unknown to him before.

Meer Muzhir Alli, a ſervant of the ranah, by his correſpondence at Calcutta, obtained intelligence of the governor's wiſh to unite the forces of the different rajahs with thoſe of the Engliſh againſt the Mahrattas in the preſent war; he made known this information to his maſter, adviſed him to aſk an alliance with the Engliſh and offered himſelf to go as ambaſſador and negociate a treaty at Calcutta: the ranah gave him the neceſſary credentials, as his envoy, with power to conclude a treaty on the beſt terms he could obtain from government.

Meer Muzhir Alli, on his arrival at Calcutta, found the diſpoſition of Mr. Haſtings favourable to his hopes, and he loſt no time in forwarding the buſineſs; he magnified the power and abilities of the ranah, repreſenting the long war he had ſupported againſt the Mahrattas in the moſt favourable light, for his conduct and courage, and exaggerated on his influence with the ranah of Odipore, the rajahs of Jodepoor, Jeypoor, and all the princes whom Mr. Haſtings wiſhed to unite in carrying on the war.

A CHARACTER *of the* SIEKS. *From the Obſervations of Colonel* POLIER *and Mr.* FORSTER.

THE Sieks are in general ſtrong and well made; accuſtomed from their infancy to the moſt laborious life, and hardeſt fare, they make marches and undergo fatigues that really appear aſtoniſhing. In their

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excurſions they carry no tents or baggage, except perhaps a ſmall tent for the principal officer: the reſt ſhelter themſelves under blankets, which ſerve them alſo in the cold weather to wrap themſelves in, and which, on a march, cover their ſaddles. They have commonly two, ſome of them three horſes each, of the middle ſize, ſtrong, active, and mild tempered. The provinces of Lahore and Moultan, noted for a breed of the beſt horſes in Hinduſtan, afford them an ample ſupply; and indeed they take the greateſt care to increaſe it by all means in their power. Though they make merry on the demiſe of any of their brethren, they mourn for the death of a horſe: thus ſhewing their love of an animal ſo neceſſary to them in their profeſſional capacity. The food of the Sieks is of the coarſeſt kind, and ſuch as the pooreſt people in Hinduſtan uſe from neceſſity. Bread baked in aſhes, and ſoaked in a maſh made of different ſorts of pulſe, is the beſt diſh, and ſuch as they never indulge in but when at full leiſure; otherwiſe vetches and tares, haſtily parched, is all they care for. They abhor ſmoaking tobacco, for what reaſon I cannot diſcover; but intoxicate themſelves freely with ſpirits of their own country manufacture: a cup of the laſt they never fail taking after a fatigue at night. Their dreſs is extremely ſcanty; a pair of long blue drawers, and a kind of checquered plaid, a part of which is faſtened round the waiſt, and the other thrown over the ſhoulder, with a mean turban, form their clothing and equipage. The chiefs are diſtinguiſhed by wearing ſome heavy gold bracelets on their wriſts, and ſometimes a chain of the ſame metal bound round their turbans, and by being mounted on better horſes: otherwiſe, no diſtinction appears amongſt them.—The chiefs are numerous, ſome of whom have the command of ten or twelve thouſand cavalry; but this power is confined to a ſmall number, the inferior officers maintaining from one to two thouſand, and many not more than twenty or thirty horſes, a certain quota of which is furniſhed by the chief, the greater part being the individual property of the horſemen.

From the ſpirit of independence ſo invariably infuſed amongſt them, their mutual jealouſy, and rapacious roving temper, the Sieks at this day are ſeldom ſeen co-operating in national concert; but actuated by the influence of an individual ambition or private diſtruſt, they purſue ſuch plans only as coincide with theſe motives. An example of their forces being engaged in oppoſite intereſts, has been noticed in the caſe of Mhah Sing, who ſuccoured the rajah of Jumbo, againſt the Siek party who had invaded his country. Before the chiefs of the mountaineers country, at the head of the Panjab, were reduced to a tributary ſtate, ſevere depredations were committed on them by the Sieks, who plundered and deſtroyed their habitations, carried off the cattle, and, if ſtrong and well formed, the male children, who were made converts to the faith of Nanock. But ſince the payment of a fixed tribute has been ſtipulated, which does not amount to more than five per cent. on the revenue, the mountaineers are little moleſted, except when the Sieks have been called in to adjuſt their domeſtic quarrels.

The extenſive and fertile territories of the Sieks, and their attachment and application, in the midſt of warfare, to the occupations of

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of agriculture, muſt evidently produce a large revenue. The diſtricts dependant on Lahore, in the reign of Aurungzebe, produced, according to Mr. Bernier, a revenue of two hundred forty-ſix lacks and ninety-five thouſand rupees; and we are naturally led to ſuppoſe, from the induſtrious ſkill of the Sieks in the various branches of cultivation, that no great decreaſe of that amount can have taken place ſince the Panjab has fallen into their poſſeſſion.

An extenſive and valuable commerce is alſo maintained in their country, which has been extended to diſtant quarters of India, particularly to the provinces of Bengal and Bahar, where many Siek merchants of opulence at this time reſide. The Omichund, who took ſo active, though unfortunate, a ſhare in the revolution which the Engliſh effected in Bengal, was a Siek, as is his adopted ſon, who is now an inhabitant of Calcutta. Merchants of every nation or ſect, who may introduce a traffic into their territories, or are eſtabliſhed under their government, experience a full protection, and enjoy commercial privileges in common with their own ſubjects. At the ſame time it muſt be noticed, that ſuch immunities are granted only to thoſe who remain amongſt them, or import wares for the immediate ſupply of the Siek markets. But the foreign traders, or even travellers, who attempt to paſs through the Panjab, are often plundered and uſually ill-treated: in the event of no moleſtation being offered to people of this deſcription, the eſcape is ever ſpoken of with a degree of joyful ſurpriſe, and a thankſgiving is offered to Providence for the ſingular eſcape. This conduct, inimical to the progreſs of civilization, and an impediment to the influx of wealth, proceeds from an extreme jealouſy of ſtrangers, added to a rapacity of temper, which make them averſe to the encouragement of any ſcheme in whoſe ſucceſs they do not immediately participate.

The Sieks are not rigorous in their ſtipulations with the Mahommedan proſelytes, who, if they abſtain from beef's fleſh, (which is held in equal abhorrence by the Sieks as by the Hindus,) and perform the more oſtenſible duties, as burning their dead, and preſerving the hair of the head, an indulgent latitude is granted in all the other articles of the creed of Nanock. The Mahommedans who reſide in the Panjab are ſubject to occaſional oppreſſion, and often to the inſult of the lower claſſes of the people; among whom it is not an uncommon practice to defile the places of worſhip, by throwing in the carcaſſes of hogs and other things held impure by the Muſſulman law. The Mahommedans are alſo prohibited from announcing their ſtated time of prayer, which, conformably to their uſage, is proclaimed in a loud tone of voice. A Siek who in the chaſe ſhall have ſlain a wild hog, is frequently known to compel the firſt Mahommedan he meets to carry to his home the body of the animal; and, on being initiated into the rites of their religion, the Sieks will ſometimes require a Mahommedan convert to bind on his arm the tuſk of a boar, that by this act of national impurity he may the more avowedly teſtify a renunciation and contempt of his former faith. Theſe facts will ſufficiently mark the haughty and inſulting demeanor, which, with few deviations, forms a prominent feature in the character of the military Sieks: but we may alſo aſcribe a certain

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certain portion of their ſevere and contumelious treatment of the Mahommedans, to a remembrance of recent injuries.

The diſcordant intereſts which agitate the Siek nation, and the conſtitutional genius of the people, muſt incapacitate them, during the exiſtence of theſe cauſes, from becoming a formidable, defenſive power; nor are they inveſted with that ſpecies of executive ſtrength which is neceſſary to advance and eſtabliſh a diſtant conqueſt. In the defence and recovery of their country, the Sieks diſplayed a courage of the moſt obſtinate kind, and manifeſted a perſeverance, under the preſſure of calamities, which bear an ample teſtimony of native reſource, when the common danger had rouſed them to action, and gave but one impulſe to their ſpirit. Should any future cauſe call forth the combined efforts of the Sieks to maintain the exiſtence of empire and religion, we may ſee ſome ambitious chief, led on by his genius and ſucceſs, and, abſorbing the power of his aſſociates, diſplay from the ruins of their commonwealth the ſtandard of monarchy. The page of hiſtory is filled with the like effects, ſpringing from the like cauſes. Under ſuch a form of government, I have little heſitation in ſaying, that the Sieks would be ſoon advanced to the firſt rank amongſt the native princes of Hinduſtan, and would become a terror to the ſurrounding ſtates.

An ACCOUNT *of the* JAUTS.

FROM the Chumbul, about twenty coſs ſouth of Agra, eaſt to the Jumna, weſt to the Jeypoor rajahſhip, and northward to the Delhi boundary, being about eighty coſs in length, and from twenty to twenty-five in breadth, lie the territories of Nujeeph Khan, lately wreſted by him from the Jauts, from whom theſe countries are called the Birge and Jautwaree.

The Jauts were of no note, as a people, until the reign of the emperor Ferrokſeer, but peaceable renters of ſmall zemindaries. During the reign of the emperor Aurungzebe, Churamana, a Jaut of the Sewennee tribe, put himſelf at the head of a body of banditti, and plundered ſuch travellers as paſſed near his zemindary: having by this means acquired money, and being generous to his followers, idle fellows of no principle flocked to be enliſted among them; ſo that he became a terror to the country round, which, from the emperor's abſence in the Deccan, was but rather looſely governed: whenever he was hard puſhed by the troops of the aumils, he took refuge in the Nerwar hills, flying from place to place, till the patience of his purſuers was tired out, or they were called away by other duty.

In Aurungzebe's laſt march towards the Deccan, Churamana had the audacity to plunder the baggage following the imperial army, by which he acquired much wealth: with part he bribed the ſubahdar of Agra to connivance, and with the reſt built the fortreſs of Bhirtpoore, as an aſylum for his family.

On the death of Aurungzebe, in the diſputes which happened concerning the ſucceſſion, Churamana, with his followers, hung on the rears

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rears of the contending armies, plundering from both. At length the nabob Jooul Fucear al Dowlah, prime miniſter to the emperor Jehander Shah, entertained him in his ſervice; and he behaved with great gallantry in the engagement between that prince and his rival, Ferrokſeer; who, however, proving victorious, Churamana loſt his court-patron, but retired with much plunder to Bhirtpoore; round which, to a conſiderable diſtance, he had eſtabliſhed his authority, which he enjoyed undiſturbed to his death; the cabals of the omrahs at court affording no time to retrieve the internal œconomy of the empire, which was now beginning to totter on its baſe.

Churamana was ſucceeded by his ſon, Mahommed Sing, who at firſt added to his poſſeſſions, but was in the end obliged to become tributary to Jey Sing, the founder of the city of Jeypoore. Mohun Sing was ſucceeded by his brother, Bodun Sing, who firſt aſſumed the title of Rajah; and during the growing imbecility of Mahommed Shah's reign, ſpread his ravages to the very walls of Agra: he ſecured his country from the tribute impoſed by the Jeypoore rajah, and left to his ſon and ſucceſſor, Sooraje Mull, a very rich, extenſive and flouriſhing country.

Sooraje Mull modelled his government into a proper form, and procured titles from the weak emperor Mahommed Shah, who now became a mere pageant, was forced to accept of the nominal ſubmiſſion of thoſe rebels, who were praying on the very vitals of his authority, and only courted honours from him as a grace to their plunders. Now become an omrah of conſequence, from the territories he poſſeſſed ſo near the capital, Sooraje Mull was much careſſed by the various parties formed in it. He embraced that of Sufder Jung, the vizier, and joined him in his rebellion againſt Ahmed Shah, who had degraded him from the vizerut, for aſſaſſinating his favourite, the nabob bahauder.

Sufder Jung being defeated in his treaſons, by the ſpirited conduct of the great, but wicked, Ghaze ud Deen, and the gallant Rohillah, Nujeeb ul Dowlah, retired to his own government at Oude, leaving his friends to make peace for themſelves. Sooraje Mull, unable to keep the field, fled to his new fortreſs of Combeere; and Akebut Mahommed, the tutor and adviſer of the young ghaze, ravaged his country with a powerful army, took Baleengur, a ſtrong fort, and at length ſet down before Combeere, againſt which he was not able to effect any thing.

Ghaze ud Deen, upon this took the field himſelf, and brought with him an additional army of fifty thouſand Mahrattas, under the command of Mathar Row and Rogonaut Row, whom he had taken into pay. Combeere was reduced to the greateſt extremities, when the omrahs at Delhi, envious of the reputation of Ghaze ud Deen, and countenanced by the emperor, in whoſe cauſe he was engaged, conſpired againſt him. Hearing of this, he broke up the ſiege, and haſtened to Delhi with his whole army, which deſtroyed the plot intended againſt him.

Sooraje Mull now ſoon recovered what country had been taken; and, except the city of Agra, the fort of Gualior, and a few other places, ſeized moſt of the diſtricts of the ſubahdary. In Ahmed Shah Abdallie's ſecond invaſion of Hinduſtan, his poſſeſſions were again over-run; but the numerous forts he

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he had conſtructed preſerved his power, and admitted only of predatory incurſions from the Duranee army, whoſe only aim was preſent plunder.

Soon after this, a vaſt army of Mahrattas, after plundering Malwa, Bunderbun, and Bhind, invaded Delhi ſubahſhip; and it was thought had intentions of entirely ſubverting the Mogul empire, and placing on the throne Biſnas Row, of the Bonſla family, whom they had brought from Sittarah for that purpoſe.

Sooraje Mull joined the Mahratta chiefs, and was treated by them with great diſtinction; but on Ahmed Abdallie's marching againſt them, and their fortifying themſelves at Paniput, he judged it more politic to take part with the Mahommedans, who, forgetting all their animoſities, had flocked in crowds to Abdallie's ſtandard, in order to oppoſe the common enemy. Sooraje Mull left the Mahratta camp, under pretence of going to ſecure them ſupplies of grain from his country; but no ſooner had he gotten out of reach, than he wrote a petition to the emperor Abdallie, expreſſing ſorrow for his paſt errors, and requeſting leave to waſh out the ſtains of his offences in the blood of the Mahrattas, under his ſtandard.

Ahmed Abdallie complied with the requeſt, and Sooraje Mull joined the allied army, which ſoon after defeated the Mahrattas ſo effectually, that few of them eſcaped from the field of battle; and, ſo deciſive was the blow, that for the ſucceeding ten years, the Mahrattas brought no army into the province of Agra, or Delhi, with a view of ſubduing it for themſelves.

Sooraje Mull was rewarded by Abdallie with a grant of the city and ſubahdary of Agra forced from the impatient Allumgeer Suni, who had been raiſed to the nominal poſſeſſion of the throne by Ghaze ud Deen, when he depoſed Ahmed Shah. On the Shah Abdallie's departure from Hinduſtan, Sooraje Mull raiſed a very conſiderable army, with a view to poſſeſs himſelf of Delhi, and deſpoil the army of Sujah ul Dowlah, who then acted as captain-general to the ruined empire: being too confident of ſucceſs, and deſpiſing his competitor, he forgot his uſual political caution, which occaſioned his ruin; having quitted his camp on a hunting party, with only three hundred attendants, he was attacked by nearly the ſame number in the courſe of his diverſion, under Afzul Khan, detached for the purpoſe by Nujeeb ul Dowlah. Sooraje Mull was ſlain in the ſkirmiſh, and upon his death his army diſperſed.

His ſon, Jowalier Sing, ſucceeded him in the raje, and, ſoon after acceſſion, he, with Ghaze ud Deen and Mulhar Row, the Mahrattas, led an army againſt Delhi to revenge the death of his father: this city was reduced to the greateſt extremities, when Nujeeb ul Dowlah, by bribing Mathar Row, prevailed upon him to draw off his troops; after which Jowalier Sing thought proper to enter into a treaty.

Nujeeb ul Dowlah evacuated Delhi, and retired unmoleſted to his own jaghire; upon which Ghaze ud Deen Khan again took poſſeſſion of the city, and charge of the affairs of the ſhadow of a monarch, whom he ſhortly after aſſaſſinated for treating privately with the Duranee Shah.

Jowalier Sing next led his army againſt the territories of Jeypoore; the rajah of which, named Rortee Rajah, ſent againſt him one of his chiefs,

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chiefs, with an inferior force, but of choſen men. Jowalier Sing received a total defeat, and would have been taken priſoner but for the gallant behaviour of Sumroo. The deſerter and his troops, who on this occaſion ſhewed a valour becoming a much better cauſe, the Jeypoore Rajah looking only to the ſafety of his own territories, did not follow his victory; ſo that Jowalier Sing only ſuffered the diſgrace of a defeat, without loſing any part of his country; he was ſoon after aſſaſſinated by a Mogul to whom he had offered ſome injury.

Jowalier Sing was ſucceeded by his brother, Ruttun Sing, who did not rule long, being ſtabbed by a fakier, whom he had taken into his ſervice, to learn him the ſecret of the philoſopher's ſtone. The murder was committed in a lone room, into which no one was ever admitted but the rajah and his tutor; ſo that the aſſaſſin eſcaped unhurt, and the fact was not diſcovered until ſome hours afterwards.

Kiſſeree Sing, his ſon, an infant of one year, was placed upon the muſnud by the friends of his father; but the other chiefs diſliking minority, acknowledged the authority of Nawil Sing, third ſon of Sooraje Mull, who, however, took only the title of regent for his nephew.

Nujeeph Khan had by this time made ſome progreſs in the invaſion of the country; and Nawil Sing, though a very able prince, diſtracted as it was by inteſtine diviſions, was unable to ſtem the torrent of ill-fortune: after ſuffering ſeveral defeats in the field, he took ſhelter in the fort of Deeg, where he died of a dropſy, brought on by grief, while Nujeeph Khan was beſieging it in the year 1773 of our era.

Ranjeet Sing, his brother, was raiſed to the raje; but Daan Shah, a diſaffected chief of great power, uſurping his authority, he quitted Deeg, and retired with his followers to Combeere. The government being thus divided, Nujeeph Khan ſoon conquered the country, drove Daan Shah from Deeg, and then marched to Combeere; after the capture of which place, the Jaut raje was entirely ſubverted, and the rajah Ranjeet Sing reduced to the poſſeſſion of Bhirtpoor, and a ſmall diſtrict round it, of about ſeven lacks per annum.

Combeere was alſo given up, with a trifling tertitory, by Nujeeph Khan, to the widow of Jowalier Sing. The only Jaut chief now independent is the Rajah Ranah Chutter Sing, our ally.

CHARACTER *of the* MALAYS *in General.* *By* H. H. ELMORE, *Esq.*

[This Account of the Malays merits Attention, as it is written by a Gentleman who had a conſtant Intercourſe with them for upwards of Sixteen Years.]

As the Malays have the character of a treacherous ſet of men, I would adviſe all people to be on their guard while in any of their ports; and when on ſhore never to be without a hanger in their hand. Every one of them go armed with a *creaſe*, (hanger), or a weapon ſomething like a chopper, and very ſharp. When you are prepared, they will not be ſo apt to inſult you, which the vulgar are ready enough to do.

It is in the power of any man

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